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Definition of terms

Pre-Graze Height (cm)

This is the compressed height of the grass in centimetres as measured by a manual plate meter. On beef and dairy farms, each cm of grass above the residual is equal to 250kg DM/ha, while of sheep only farms each cm of grass above the residual is equal to 300kg DM/ha. Beef and dairy farm usually graze to 4cm while sheep can generally graze down lower to 3.5cm.

Pre-Graze Yield (kg DM/ha)

This is the recommend cover of grass in a paddock which is ready for grazing. It is measured in kg DM/ha.

Days Ahead (Days)

Days ahead refers to the number of days grass ahead of the livestock at the time of the grass cover. It is calculated by dividing the grass demand into the farm cover. For example, if the farm cover in the wedge is 700 kg DM/Ha and the current grass demand is 70 kg DM/ha/day, then the grazing days ahead is 10.

See the next page for targets for different months for beef and sheep farms.

Grazing targets by month for beef farms

	Pre-grazing height (cm)	Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha)	Days Ahead (days)
February/March	8 - 9	1000 - 1250	45 days during 1 st rotation
April	8 - 10	1000 - 1500	18 – 21
May	9 - 10	1250 - 1500	12 – 14
June/July	9 - 10	1250 - 1500	12 – 14
August	9 - 10	1250 - 1500	25 – 30
September	10 - 12	1500 - 2000	35 – 40
October/November/December	Less than 12	Less than 2000	Close paddocks starting on 10 th of October

*Guidelines are based on livestock grazing to a residual of 4 cm and each cm above the residual is equal to **250kg DM/ha** for beef farms

Grazing targets by month for sheep farms

	Pre-grazing height (cm)	Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha)	Days Ahead (days)
February/March	6 - 7	600 - 900	45 days during 1 st rotation
April	7 - 9	900 - 1500	18 – 21
May	7 - 9	900 - 1500	12 – 14
June/July	7 - 9	900 - 1500	12 – 14
August	7 - 9	900 - 1500	15 – 20
September	8 - 10	1200 - 1800	25 – 30
October/November/December	Less than 11	Less than 2100	Close paddocks from late October over a 30 to 40 day period

*Guidelines are based on livestock grazing to a residual of 4 cm and each cm above the residual is equal **300kg DM/ha** for sheep farms